

Thank you for your comment, Michael Kopchick.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50210.

Comment Date: February 1, 2011 15:06:14PM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50210

First Name: Michael

Middle Initial:

Last Name: Kopchick

Organization:

Address: 29172 Magnolia Court

Address 2:

Address 3:

City: Flat Rock

State: MI

Zip: 481341357

Country: USA

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Comment Submitted:

The Asian Carp have overtaken the majority of the Mississippi River watershed in the two decades since their escape from the catfish farms of the south. There has been plenty of time for studies. Why has the government waited until these voracious invaders are on the doorstep of the most precious natural resource this nation has, only to announce it needs five more years to study their impact? This is ridiculous!!! The only reason not to close the locks is POLITICS!!! Yes, there would be some major changes in shipping in and around the Chicago area, but what about the changes to the Great Lakes ecosystem? Is that without value? Will the Stimulus Program compensate business and property owners for the huge drop in business and property values after the carp make water recreation in the region only a memory? Of course not, but the Stimulus Program could and should cover the construction of new intermodal freight terminals to replace the canal. The construction alone would probably provide more jobs than there are now in shipping via the canal, and the new terminals would also provide many more jobs. This project would be a huge boost for the state of Illinois, which has less than 2% of its land mass in the Great Lakes watershed. A state with such a small contribution to the ecology of this vital resource should not be allowed to jeopardize the entire system for a replaceable mode of shipping.

Please close the canal. We cannot wait any longer.